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Soviet Designs Against America

As Told in C.I.A.'s Spy Story

Yevgeny Y. Runge, a Russian intelligence officer, defected to the West in Germany last month and is in protective custody in the United States. He said he fled his homeland when his newest assignment was to require him to leave his son behind. His defection led to the arrest or surveillance of 20 other Russian agents.

The Central Intelligence Agency has released the Runge story, it now says, in order to sound a note of caution to those citizens and officials who are engaged in wishful thinking about the possibility of a peaceful accommodation with the Soviet Union.

There is posed a vitally important question for Americans.

The question is whether there is the possibility of a peaceful accommodation with the Soviet Union. Obviously the question is open to debate. Before the answer is frozen into national policy, however, far more than the C.I.A. version of the Runge story is needed. This story is a part of the background required but it is hardly a revolutionary disclosure.

The Soviet Union has persistently pressed its ideology in the world, even to attempting to enforce it with violent uprisings. For two decades the Soviets have encouraged non-settlement of international disputes as their policy. President Kennedy thought the Soviets could be dealt with in good

faith. Cuba answered that. There was restraint by the Russians in the Middle East last June, a hint of a thaw at Glassboro before that, but there is resistance in Vietnam and the Middle East today on settling those problems.

The point is that the C.I.A. fears seem groundless. There is no visible demand by Americans for forcing peace between America and the Soviet Union. It would be foolhardy, however, to assume that there can be no accommodation at some time and in some manner. Change will come in the Soviet Union as it has come in America. Nothing can stop it.